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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/400,378	09/21/1999	LEE E. CANNON	VLDT.65169	3374

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EXAMINER

BROCKETTI, JULIE K

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3713

DATE MAILED: 07/19/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/400,378

Applicant(s)

CANNON, LEE E.

Examiner

Julie K Brockett

Art Unit

3713

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 June 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 79-90 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 79-90 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 15.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Specification***

The amendment filed June 12, 2002 is objected to under 35 U.S.C. 132 because it introduces new matter into the disclosure. 35 U.S.C. 132 states that no amendment shall introduce new matter into the disclosure of the invention. The added material which is not supported by the original disclosure is as follows: a first and second memory, the controller encrypting and decrypting the memory address, authorization of a credit amount, a decoded memory address, and a status check as to whether or not the monetary amount has been paid.

Applicant is required to cancel the new matter in the reply to this Office Action.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 79-90 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the

Art Unit: 3713

inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The newly filed claims not claim a first and second memory, the controller encrypting and decrypting the memory address, authorization of a credit amount, a decoded memory address, and a status check as to whether or not the monetary amount has been paid. None of these limitations or subjects were included in the originally filed specification, consequently they are considered new matter and must be canceled from the application.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 79-90 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burns et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,048,269 in view of Behm et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,475,205. Burns et al. discloses a coinless slot machine system and method. The system has a central processing system comprising a controller and memory (Fig. 1, item 100 & col. 5 lines 28-31; col. 6 lines 33-36). Gaming machines are operatively coupled to the central processing apparatus (Fig. 1, item 200). It is inherent to the gaming machines that they have a display unit. The gaming machines also have a bar code reader and a controller operatively

Art Unit: 3713

connected to the bar code reader and the display unit. The bar code reader is capable of reading any bar code including those representing an encrypted memory address. The gaming machine also has a bar code printer in which the controller is operatively connected to. The controller is programmed to allow for play of a casino game (Fig. 1). The unique addresses are unique identifiers in the computer system for storing values. The gaming system also includes a permanent coded media, i.e. gaming coupons, having a unique identifier encoded on the paper slip. The unique identifier is also stored in the CPU's memory; it is inherent that the place where the identifier is stored in memory has a unique address (col. 4 lines 9-20 & col. 6 lines 21-36). A plurality of gaming machines each have an input slot for accepting the permanent encoded media and an output slot for distributed the encoded media to players (Fig. 1, items 206 & 208 & col. 2 lines 39-47). The gaming machine input accepts the encrypted media and reads the bar code and transmits the data to the central processing system. The central processing system accepts the transmitted data and then decrypts the data to generate unencrypted data in order to perform a status check of whether or not a monetary amount has been paid. Moreover the controller of the central processing apparatus is programmed to transmit to the gaming machine data indicative of whether a credit corresponding to the monetary amount should be authorized. If the credit is authorized game play is permitted (col. 7 lines 5-29). Burns et al. also discloses a plurality of change machines coupled to the

Art Unit: 3713

central processing apparatus. It is obvious that the change machines have a display unit. The change machines have a currency reader (Fig. 1, item 302) for accepting currency and encoded media. The change machines also include a bar code printer and a controller operatively coupled to the bar code printer, the currency reader and the display unit of the change machine. The change machines controller is programmed to transmit data representing a monetary amount to the central processing system (col. 7 lines 5-29). It is inherent to computer systems that the memory has a plurality of locations identified by memory addresses and that the memory locations can store values.

Consequently the controller of the central processing apparatus is programmed to store data received from the change machine in a first memory location in the central processing apparatus. The controller of the CPU is also programmed to store status data in a second memory location in the memory of the CPU. The status data is indicative of whether the monetary amount has been paid (col. 7 lines 5-39). Inherent to the system the first and second memory locations are identified by a memory address. When a player completes play at a machine, the central processor stores the data associated with the play in its memory. The change machine dispenses an encoded media having a unique identifier, which is stored in the memory of the CPU.

Consequently, the gaming machine has a bar code printer (Fig. 1, item 208 & col. 4 lines 10-20 & col. 6 lines 21-36). The encoding system used on the permanent encoded media is a bar code (col. 2 lines 39-43). The Examiner

notes that a bar code is encrypted data. The change machine has an output for distributing currency and encoded media, i.e. gaming coupons (Fig. 1 item 306, 308). The change machine input accepts currency, transmits a signal representing the value of the currency and returns encoded media with a bar code. The machine input accepts the encoded media, reads bar code and transmits a signal representing the bar code to the central processing system. The central processing system then decrypts the bar code and determines whether or not a monetary amount has been paid. The controller transmits this information to the change machine indicative of whether a credit corresponding to the monetary amount should be paid and the change machine's controller is programmed to cause the currency dispenser to dispense currency based on the data indicative of whether the credit should be paid. Both the gaming machines and the change machines read the unique identifier on the gaming coupons by scanning a bar code and when the gaming coupons are distributed the encoding is done by printing a bar code on the coupon (Fig. 1, items 304 & 206 & Fig. 2). The input slot for both the gaming machine and the change machine is a combined bar code reader and currency reader.

Burns does not specifically disclose the use of a unique memory address as the encoded bar code. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a unique memory address as the encoded bar code. Burns et al. discloses that the

identifier, i.e. bar code is a unique control number randomly generated by the CPU in a well-known manner (col. 2 lines 57-60). The Comprehensive Dictionary of Electrical Engineering defines an address to be “a unique identifier for the place where information is stored”. It is well known for computers to use memory addresses as control numbers for tracking various items. It would be simple and convenient to use the memory addresses as the unique identifier for the gaming coupons, since the memory addresses hold the credit information associated with the gaming coupons. Burns et al. lacks in disclosing using a memory address from the central processors memory as the encrypted memory address, i.e. bar code printed on the gaming coupon.

Behm et al. teaches of a document verification system for lottery tickets. The lottery tickets are printed with bar codes containing ticket identity numbers, which uniquely identifies a ticket and is used as an address to locate the record of the redemption file for the ticket (See Behm col. 30 lines 46-52; Fig. 37). Consequently, the tickets have a permanent coded media encoded thereon an encrypted memory address that corresponds to a memory address in the central processing systems memory. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to have the CPU's controller encrypted the memory address from the central processor memory to use as the unique identifier in the invention of Burns. The identifier is a unique control number randomly generated by the CPU in a well-known manner (col. 2 lines 57-60). It is also obvious that the encoded memory address should have a larger number



of bits than the unencoded memory address. By having more bits there is a greater level of security present in the encoded data. It would be simple and convenient to use the memory addresses as the unique identifier for the gaming coupons, since the memory addresses hold the credit or ticket information associated with the gaming coupons.

### ***Response to Amendment***

It has been noted that claims 1-78 have been canceled. New claims 79-90 have been added.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 79-90 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection due to the amended claim language.

### ***Citation of Relevant Prior Art***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

1. Swartz et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,923,735.

--Swartz et al. discloses a self-service checkout system. In the system a ticket is generated having a bar code printed thereon, wherein the bar code is encoded with the address of the customer's transaction file.

**Conclusion**

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Julie K Brockett whose telephone number is 703-308-7306. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Valencia Martin-Wallace can be reached on 703-308-4119. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or

Art Unit: 3713

proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9302 for regular communications and 703-872-9303 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the customer service office whose telephone number is 703-306-5648.



Julie Brockett

July 16, 2002



MICHAEL O'NEILL  
PRIMARY EXAMINER